UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/47/41
1 June 1992

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-seventh session

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD*

* The present document is a mimeographed version of the report of the Committee on the Rights of the Child. The final report will be issued as Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 41 (A/47/41).

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I. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED BY THE COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

1. Recommendation concerning sessions of the Committee or its subsidiary bodies

The Committee on the Rights of the Child,

Recalling the rapid entry into force of the Convention on the Rights of the Child 1/ and the unprecedented number of ratifications, which demonstrate a widespread commitment to the promotion and protection of the rights of the child,

Aware of the high expectations for effectiveness in the functioning of the Committee, which constitutes an essential mechanism for the implementation of the provisions of the Convention,

Noting that the initial report of some one hundred States parties will need to be considered by the Committee in a timely and thorough manner between 1992 and 1996, at which time the second periodic reports will start to be due,

Concerned about the workload of the Committee and the risk of building up an undesirable backlog in the consideration of such reports,

Convinced of the need to adopt urgent measures to deal with this situation,

1. Requests the General Assembly to authorize the Secretary-General to schedule at least two regular sessions of the Committee annually as from 1993, as well as to schedule in 1992, in addition to the Committee's second session, a one-week working group of the whole to prepare for the consideration of the first round of States parties' reports;

2. Also requests the General Assembly to authorize the establishment of a pre-sessional working group that would meet approximately two months in advance of each session to conduct a preliminary review of reports submitted under article 44 of the Convention and to consider questions relating to technical assistance and international cooperation pursuant to article 45 of the Convention.

2. Recommendation concerning sources of information

The Committee on the Rights of the Child,

Recalling the conclusion of the third meeting of the persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies that "each treaty body should have access to all the sources of information it deemed necessary to fulfil its functions

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1/ Resolution 44/25, annex.

effectively," 2/ and bearing in mind that the information provided by non-governmental organizations and the experience and knowledge of the specialized agencies and other bodies of the United Nations have been recognized as having particular importance,

Considering that access by the Committee to all relevant sources of information pertaining to its functions will be essential to ensuring the effective performance of its activities,

1. Requests the Secretary-General to establish, as proposed by the second and third meetings of persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies, a committee resource room for the purpose of gathering and facilitating access to the various sources of information that are indispensable for the effective functioning of the Committee;

2. Requests the secretariat to report, at the beginning of each session, on the action taken pursuant to decisions adopted by the Committee at its previous session;

3. Also requests the secretariat to provide a documentary basis for the presentation by the Rapporteur or another designated member of the Committee of a comprehensive report on developments relevant to the work of the Committee that have occurred since the preceding session;

4. Further requests the secretariat to organize country files and to prepare an analytical study of available information concerning each State party whose report is to be considered by the Committee, taking into account both the reporting guidelines and data emerging from reports that have been submitted by the same State party to other treaty bodies;

5. Requests the secretariat to submit, at the beginning of each session, a list of reports received and those pending consideration in order to enable the Committee to plan its future work in an effective way;

6. Also requests the secretariat to submit to the Committee an updated list of reservations and objections to reservations to the Convention on the Rights of the Child; 1/

7. Further requests the secretariat to submit to the Committee a compilation of international instruments relevant to the work of the Committee, taking into account relevant instruments adopted by the various United Nations organs and specialized agencies as well as relevant recommendations and resolutions, as appropriate;

8. Requests the secretariat to provide the Committee with a compilation of the general comments and general recommendations adopted by the various human rights treaty bodies;

9. Requests the Secretary-General to strengthen, in the context of the technical assistance and advisory services programme of the Centre for Human

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2/ A/45/636, annex, para. 42.

Rights, the training activities related to the implementation of the Convention and, pursuant to the recommendation of the third meeting of persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies, 3/ to consider organizing seminars and workshops at the national level for the purpose of training those involved in the preparation of State party reports to prepare those reports in accordance with the reporting guidelines.

3. Recommendation concerning relations with other United Nations organs and treaty bodies

The Committee on the Rights of the Child,

Recognizing the importance of establishing effective communication and dialogue with the other human rights treaty bodies on common issues and problems,

Considering the need to ensure its participation in activities taking place within the United Nations which are of relevance to its work,

1. Welcomes and endorses the recommendation made by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights to hold, possibly in 1992, a meeting with members of that Committee as well as with members of the Human Rights Committee, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the Committee on the Rights of the Child, with a view to discussing matters of mutual interest relating to the rights of the child;

2. Welcomes the opportunity to participate in the future meetings of persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies;

3. Resolves to follow, as appropriate, the meetings and activities of other human rights treaty bodies, and notes with particular interest the intention of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights to hold, during its sixth session, a general discussion on the question of social and economic indicators;

4. Welcomes the possibility of participating in the seminar of experts on appropriate indicators to measure achievements in the progressive realization of economic, social and cultural rights to be organized under the United Nations programme of human rights activities in 1992-1993, as requested by the Commission on Human Rights 4/ and as endorsed by the Economic and Social Council. 5/

3/ Ibid., para. 73.

4/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1991, Supplement No. 2 (E/1991/22-E/CN.4/1991/91), chap. I.B.3.

5/ Economic and Social Council decision 1991/235.

4. Recommendation concerning public information activities

The Committee on the Rights of the Child,

Recognizing the importance of disseminating information concerning the Convention on the Rights of the Child 1/ and on its implementation so as to create greater awareness and a deeper understanding of its principles and provisions,

1. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure, as recommended by the second and third meetings of persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies, that the United Nations information centres make freely available on a routine basis the documents of the Committee for general distribution, particularly the reports of the Committee, the reports submitted to the Committee by the State in whose territory the information centre is located, and the summary records relating to the examination of such reports;

2. Also requests the Secretary-General to provide for, and to facilitate and encourage, the dissemination of information concerning the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the work of the Committee.

5. Recommendation to the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference on Human Rights

The Committee on the Rights of the Child,

Acting pursuant to paragraph 9 of General Assembly resolution 45/155 of 18 December 1990 and paragraph 5 of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1991/30 of 5 March 1991,

1. Designates its Chairperson as its representative to the meetings of the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference on Human Rights;

2. Adopts the following recommendations:

(a) A specific item relating to the activities of the human rights treaty bodies should be included in the agenda of the World Conference;

(b) The agenda of the Conference should be organized in such a manner that the rights of the child are given due emphasis. A specific item should also be included for the purpose of discussing the Convention on the Rights of the Child as an illustration of the indivisibility and interrelationship of different human rights;

(c) The list of issues to be explored during the preparatory process should include:

(i) Improving the effectiveness of the existing human rights treaty bodies;

(ii) Ways and means of strengthening the material and human resources of the Centre for Human Rights;

(d) All members of the treaty bodies of the United Nations human rights system should be invited to participate in the World Conference;

(e) A meeting of members of human rights treaty bodies should be convened as part of the preparatory process in order to facilitate a comprehensive evaluation of the work of the treaty bodies with a view to making recommendations for the improvement of their functioning;

(f) The holding of national, regional and international workshops and seminars should be encouraged during the preparatory process and their results should be presented to the World Conference;

(g) Special studies should be undertaken during the preparatory process to enable the World Conference to implement the provisions contained in paragraph 1 (b) of General Assembly resolution 45/155.

II. ORGANIZATIONAL AND OTHER MATTERS

1. As at 18 October 1991, the closing date of the first session of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, there were 98 States parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The Convention was adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 44/25 of 20 November 1989 and opened for signature and ratification or accession in New York on 26 January 1990. It entered into force on 2 September 1990, in accordance with the provisions of article 49 of the Convention.

2. The first session of the Committee on the Rights of the Child was held at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 30 September to 18 October 1991. At its 2nd meeting, the Committee adopted the provisional agenda contained in document CRC/C/1 as the agenda of its first session (see annex I). An account of the deliberations of the Committee is contained in the relevant summary records (CRC/C/1991/SR.1-27).

3. In accordance with article 43 of the Convention, the States parties, at their 1st meeting, held at the United Nations Headquarters from 27 February to 1 March 1991, elected the 10 members of the Committee on the Rights of the Child from a list of persons nominated by States parties. A list of the members of the Committee, together with an indication of the duration of their terms of office, appears in annex II to the present report. With the exception of Mrs. Borges de Omena, all members attended the first session of the Committee. Mr. Mombeshora and Mgr. Bambaren Gastelumendi were unable to attend the entire session.

4. At its 2nd meeting, the Committee elected its Chairperson, in accordance with article 43, paragraph 9, of the Convention. Following the adoption of rule 16 of the provisional rules of procedure, the Committee elected three vice-chairpersons and a Rapporteur. The officers of the Committee, all of whom were elected by acclamation, are:

Chairperson: Mrs. Hoda Badran

Vice-chairpersons: Mgr. Luis Bambaren Gastelumendi
Mrs. Flora C. Eufemio
Mr. Yuri Kolosov

Rapporteur: Mrs. Marta Santos Pais

III. OVERVIEW OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMITTEE

A. Provisional rules of procedure

5. The consideration of its rules of procedure afforded the Committee an occasion to discuss a wide range of issues relating to its work. With regard to the question of the frequency of its meetings, members of the Committee were particularly concerned that sufficient time should be available for the Committee to deal effectively with the heavy workload that was expected. It was noted, for example, that the initial reports of some 100 States parties would need to be considered by the Committee between 1992 and 1996, before the second periodic reports became due, and that a single annual session of three weeks' duration would clearly not permit timely and thorough action on those reports even if the Committee devoted its time exclusively to that one activity. Additionally, the Committee would be unable effectively to address its important other responsibilities, including those regarding technical assistance under article 45, the consideration of special studies and other reports submitted to it, the formulation of general recommendations on the implementation of the Convention and the formulation of general comments to assist States parties in fulfilling their reporting obligations. Accordingly, rule 2, paragraph 1, of the Committee's rules of procedure, as adopted, provides that "the Committee shall normally hold two regular sessions annually" and the Committee adopted a recommendation to the General Assembly in this regard (see chap. I, recommendation 1).

6. Members of the Committee recognized the importance of enlisting the cooperation and assistance of the specialized agencies, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), other United Nations organs and other competent bodies in the Committee's efforts to evaluate and facilitate the implementation of the Convention in all regions of the world, and felt that the information, documentation and expertise of those diverse bodies and organizations could usefully contribute to the work of the Committee, both with regard to reports or advice that might be requested under article 45, subparagraph (a), of the Convention and studies that might be requested on specific issues under article 45, subparagraph (c). The procedures relating to the participation of these relevant bodies and agencies are set out in rule 34. In adopting that rule, the Committee emphasized the need to conserve a maximum of time for the Committee's dialogue with States parties.

7. A number of other key concerns of the Committee were identified during the discussions on the rules of procedure. Among these were the Committee's working methods in relation to the consideration of reports and ways to publicize the work of the Committee. The views expressed on those matters during the consideration of the rules of procedure are included under the relevant headings elsewhere in the present report. The provisional rules of procedure were adopted by the Committee at its 22nd meeting (see annex IV).

B. Matters relating to the Committee's methods of work in respect of the consideration of reports to be submitted by States parties in accordance with article 44 of the Convention

1. Guidelines

8. Members of the Committee emphasized that the reporting process should establish an open and constructive dialogue between the Committee and the States parties for the purpose of improving the situation of children and that it would provide an opportunity for States parties to monitor their policies on a regular basis and to focus on areas where further action was required.

9. The Committee agreed that the reporting guidelines should provide for clustering the articles of the Convention according to themes rather than an article-by-article approach. It was felt that such a thematic approach would facilitate the preparation of reports by States parties by grouping together those articles which were most closely related. At the same time, it was underlined that the rights contained in the Convention were interrelated and that each one was fundamental to the dignity of the child. The implementation of each right should, therefore, take into account the implementation of or respect for all the other rights.

10. The reporting guidelines for the form and contents of initial reports, as adopted by the Committee at its 22nd meeting, are reproduced in annex III to the present report.

2. Dossiers and resource room

11. The Committee also noted the importance of maintaining dossiers of information for each State party on the implementation of the Convention containing reports, statistical data and other relevant material prepared by United Nations organs, specialized agencies and other competent bodies. It was pointed out that a computerized database on children's rights would be particularly valuable in that regard and all efforts to that end should be encouraged. The Committee also urged that a Committee resource room should be established in the Centre for Human Rights where documentation emanating from the various United Nations human rights organs, including the treaty bodies, could be kept and consulted by members of the various treaty bodies (see chap. I, recommendation 2, above).

3. Pre-sessional working group

12. The Committee agreed that there would be a need for a pre-sessional working group to facilitate its work under articles 44 and 45 of the Convention, primarily by reviewing States parties' reports and identifying in advance the main questions that would need to be discussed with the representatives of the reporting States. That would facilitate the task of States parties by providing advance notice of the principal issues arising from the examination of their reports and would significantly improve the efficiency of the reporting system. It would also permit the consideration of questions relating to technical assistance and international cooperation (see

chap. I, recommendation 1, above). It was envisaged that the working group would normally meet approximately two months in advance of each session as from 1993.

4. Technical assistance and advisory services

13. When considering recommendation 2, paragraph 9, members of the Committee stressed the importance of receiving from States parties information on the implementation of the Convention. In that context, the Committee also emphasized the importance of the programme of advisory services and technical assistance of the Centre for Human Rights in relation to the rights of the child. States parties should also be informed about the nature of that programme and the possibilities of obtaining support from the programme for the implementation of the Convention.

C. Cooperation with specialized agencies, the United Nations Children's Fund, other United Nations organs and other competent bodies

14. It was recognized that the convention provided a particularly valuable framework for the specialized agencies, UNICEF, other United Nations organs and other competent bodies to guide activities and programmes affecting children. Additionally, it was noted that the Convention served as a useful basis for meaningful cooperation and dialogue among all the various bodies concerned.

15. With regard to the work of the Committee, members pointed out that there should be effective coordination in the provision of relevant information from intergovernmental and non-governmental sources on the implementation of the Convention in States submitting reports. Members of the Committee also noted that the Committee would need to obtain information on relevant activities being carried out by the specialized agencies, United Nations organs and other competent bodies in order to determine how the implementation of the provisions of the Convention was being or could be affected by those activities and what kind of technical assistance or advice would be appropriate, based on the situation in the respective countries. The Committee would also need to receive information from agencies providing such technical assistance on the results being achieved. Attention was drawn to the need for the Committee to formulate, at the end of the consideration of each report, concluding observations reflecting the discussion that had taken place and indicating which issues would require specific follow-up.

D. Future meetings of the Committee and other matters

16. The Committee decided to hold its second session from 28 September to 9 October 1992 and subsequently a one-week working group of the whole to prepare for the consideration of the first round of States parties' reports. Based on the projected schedule for the submission of initial reports from States parties, the Committee agreed tentatively that its third session should be held in January 1993.

17. The Committee also discussed the importance of organizing informal meetings outside Geneva so as to provide a greater awareness of its work, as well as a more comprehensive understanding of the actual situation of children in the various regions of the world. The Committee expressed the hope that such informal meetings could be organized with the assistance and support of United Nations agencies and organs and other competent bodies active in the field of the rights of the child, and requested its Chairperson as well as Mgr. Bambaren Gastelumendi, one of its vice-chairpersons, to work towards the realization of a proposal to hold a seminar on the rights of the child in Latin America in 1992 in cooperation with UNICEF and other possible sponsors.

18. The Committee discussed the World Conference on Human Rights. For its consideration, the Committee had before it the report of the first session of the Preparatory Committee held from 9 to 13 September 1991 at Geneva. As a result of the discussion, the Committee adopted recommendation 5 contained in chapter I of the present report.

19. A paper on possible working methods of the Committee was prepared by a member and was discussed by the Committee at its 23rd meeting on 16 October 1991. Members of the Committee requested that the paper be revised in the light of the views expressed and made available to the Committee at its next session.

IV. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

20. At its 25th to 27th meetings, held on 17 and 18 October 1991, the Committee considered the draft interim report on its first session. The report, as amended during the course of the discussion, was unanimously adopted by the Committee.

ANNEX I

Agenda

1. Opening of the session.

2. Election of the Chairperson of the Committee.

3. Adoption of the agenda.

4. Adoption of the rules of procedure.

5. Solemn declaration by the members of the Committee.

6. Election of the other officers of the Committee.

7. Matters relating to the Committee's methods of work in respect of the consideration of reports to be submitted by States parties in accordance with article 44 of the Convention.

8. Cooperation with specialized agencies, the United Nations Children's Fund and other United Nations organs.

9. Cooperation with other competent bodies.

10. Future meetings of the Committee.

11. Other matters.

ANNEX II

Membership of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, 1991-1993

Name of member	Country of nationality
Mrs. Hoda BADRAN*	Egypt
Mgr. Luis A. BAMBAREN GASTELUMENDI**	Peru
Mrs. Akila BELEMBAOGO**	Burkina Faso
Mrs. Maria de Fatima BORGES DE OMENA*	Brazil
Mrs. Flora C. EUFEMIO*	Philippines
Mr. Thomas HAMMARBERG**	Sweden
Mr. Youri KOLOSOV**	Russian Federation
Ms. Sandra Prunella MASON**	Barbados
Mr. Swithun MOMBESHORA*	Zimbabwe
Mrs. Marta SANTOS PAIS*	Portugal

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* Term expires on 28 February 1993.

** Term expires on 28 February 1995.

ANNEX III

General guidelines regarding the form and contents of initial reports to be submitted by States parties under article 44, paragraph 1 (a), of the Convention*

INTRODUCTION

1. Article 44, paragraph 1, of the Convention on the Rights of the Child provides that:

> "States parties undertake to submit to the Committee, through the Secretary-General of the United Nations, reports on the measures they have adopted which give effect to the rights recognized herein and on the progress made on the enjoyment of those rights:
>
> "(a) Within two years of the entry into force of the Convention for the State party concerned;
>
> "(b) Thereafter every five years".

2. Article 44 of the Convention further provides, in paragraph 2, that reports submitted to the Committee on the Rights of the Child shall indicate factors and difficulties, if any, affecting the fulfilment of the obligations under the Convention and shall also contain sufficient information to provide the Committee with a comprehensive understanding of the implementation of the Convention in the country concerned.

3. The Committee believes that the process of preparing a report for submission to the Committee offers an important occasion for conducting a comprehensive review of the various measures undertaken to harmonize national law and policy with the Convention and to monitor progress made in the enjoyment of the rights set forth in the Convention. Additionally, the process should be one that encourages and facilitates popular participation and public scrutiny of government policies.

4. The Committee considers that the reporting process entails an ongoing reaffirmation by States parties of their commitment to respect and ensure observance of the right set forth in the Convention and serves as the essential vehicle for the establishment of a meaningful dialogue between the States parties and the Committee.

5. The general part of States parties' reports, relating to matters that are of interest to monitoring bodies under various international human rights instruments, should be prepared in accordance with the "Consolidated guidelines for the initial part of the reports of States parties", as contained in document HRI/1991/1. The present guidelines, which were adopted by the Committee on the Rights of the Child at its 22nd meeting, held on

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* Adopted by the Committee at its 22nd meeting, on 15 October 1991.

15 October 1991, should be followed in the preparation of the initial reports of States parties relating to the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

6. The Committee intends to formulate guidelines for the preparation of periodic reports that are to be submitted pursuant to article 44, paragraph 1 (b), of the Convention in due course.

7. Reports should be accompanied by copies of the principal legislative and other texts as well as detailed statistical information and indicators referred to therein, which will be made available to members of the Committee. It should be noted, however, that for reasons of economy they will not be translated or reproduced for general distribution. It is desirable, therefore, that when a text is not actually quoted in or annexed to the report itself, the report should contain sufficient information to be understood without reference to those texts.

8. The provisions of the Convention have been grouped under different sections, equal importance being attached to all the rights recognized by the Convention.

I. GENERAL MEASURES OF IMPLEMENTATION

9. Under this section, States parties are requested to provide relevant information pursuant to article 4 of the Convention, including information on:

(a) The measures taken to harmonize national law and policy with the provisions of the Convention;

(b) Existing or planned mechanisms at the national or local level for coordinating policies relating to children and for monitoring the implementation of the Convention.

10. In addition, States parties are requested to describe the measures that have been taken or are foreseen, pursuant to article 42 of the Convention, to make the principles and provisions of the Convention widely known, by appropriate and active means, to adults and children alike.

11. States parties are also requested to describe those measures undertaken or foreseen, pursuant to article 44, paragraph 6, of the Convention, to make their reports widely available to the public at large in their own countries.

II. DEFINITION OF THE CHILD

12. Under this section, States parties are requested to provide relevant information, pursuant to article 1 of the Convention, concerning the definition of a child under their laws and regulations. In particular, States parties are requested to provide information on the age of attainment of majority and on the legal minimum ages established for various purposes, including legal or medical counselling without parental consent, end of compulsory education, part-time employment, full-time employment, hazardous employment, sexual consent, marriage, voluntary enlistment into the armed

forces, conscription into the armed forces, voluntarily giving testimony in court, criminal liability, deprivation of liberty, imprisonment and consumption of alcohol or other controlled substances.

III. GENERAL PRINCIPLES

13. Relevant information, including the principal legislative, judicial, administrative or other measures in force or foreseen, factors and difficulties encountered and progress achieved in implementing the provisions of the Convention, and implementation priorities and specific goals for the future should be provided in respect of:

(a) Non-discrimination (art. 2);

(b) Best interests of the child (art. 3);

(c) The right to life, survival and development (art. 6);

(d) Respect for the views of the child (art. 12).

14. In addition, States parties are encouraged to provide relevant information on the application of these principles in the implementation of articles listed elsewhere in these guidelines.

IV. CIVIL RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS

15. Under this section States parties are requested to provide relevant information, including the principal legislative, judicial, administrative or other measures in force; factors and difficulties encountered and progress achieved in implementing the relevant provisions of the Convention and implementation priorities and specific goals for the future in respect of:

(a) Name and nationality (art. 7);

(b) Preservation of identity (art. 8);

(c) Freedom of expression (art. 13);

(d) Access to appropriate information (art. 17);

(e) Freedom of thought, conscience and religion (art. 14);

(f) Freedom of association and of peaceful assembly (art. 15);

(g) Protection of privacy (art. 16);

(h) The right not to be subjected to torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment (art. 37 (a)).

V. FAMILY ENVIRONMENT AND ALTERNATIVE CARE

16. Under this section, States parties are requested to provide relevant information, including the principal legislative, judicial, administrative or other measures in force, particularly how the principles of the "best interests of the child" and "respect for the views of the child" are reflected therein; factors and difficulties encountered and progress achieved in implementing the relevant provisions of the Convention; and implementation priorities and specific goals for the future in respect of:

(a) Parental guidance (art. 5);

(b) Parental responsibilities (art. 18, paras. 1 and 2);

(c) Separation from parents (art. 9);

(d) Family reunification (art. 10);

(e) Recovery of maintenance for the child (art. 27, para. 4);

(f) Children deprived of a family environment (art. 20);

(g) Adoption (art. 21);

(h) Illicit transfer and non-return (art. 11);

(i) Abuse and neglect (art. 19), including physical and psychological recovery and social reintegration (art. 39);

(j) Periodic review of placement (art. 25).

17. In addition, States parties are requested to provide information on the numbers of children per year within the reporting period in each of the following groups, disaggregated by age group, sex, ethnic or national background and rural or urban environment: homeless children, abused or neglected children taken into protective custody, children placed in foster care, children placed in institutional care, children placed through domestic adoption, children entering the country through intercountry adoption procedures and children leaving the country through intercountry adoption procedures.

18. States parties are encouraged to provide additional relevant statistical information and indicators relating to children covered in this section.

VI. BASIC HEALTH AND WELFARE

19. Under this section States parties are requested to provide relevant information, including the principal legislative, judicial, administrative or other measures in force; the institutional infrastructure for implementing policy in this area, particularly monitoring strategies and mechanisms; and factors and difficulties encountered and progress achieved in implementing the relevant provisions of the Convention, in respect of:

(a) Survival and development (art. 6, para. 2);

(b) Disabled children (art. 23);

(c) Health and health services (art. 24);

(d) Social security and child-care services and facilities (art. 26 and art. 18, para. 3);

(e) Standard of living (art. 27, paras. 1-3).

20. In addition to information provided under paragraph 9 (b) of these guidelines, States parties are requested to specify the nature and extent of cooperation with local and national organizations of a governmental or non-governmental nature, such as institutions of social workers, concerning the implementation of this area of the Convention. States parties are encouraged to provide additional relevant statistical information and indicators relating to children covered in this section.

VII. EDUCATION, LEISURE AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

21. Under this section States parties are requested to provide relevant information, including the principal legislative, judicial, administrative or other measures in force; the institutional infrastructure for implementing policy in this area, particularly monitoring strategies and mechanisms, and factors and difficulties encountered and progress achieved in implementing the relevant provisions of the Convention, in respect of:

(a) Education, including vocational training and guidance (art. 8);

(b) Aims of education (art. 29);

(c) Leisure, recreation and cultural activities (art. 31).

22. In addition to information provided under paragraph 9 (b) of these guidelines, States parties are requested to specify the nature and extent of cooperation with local and national organizations of a governmental or non-governmental nature, such as institutions of social workers, concerning the implementation of this area of the Convention. States parties are encouraged to provide additional relevant statistical information and indicators relating to children covered in this section.

VIII. SPECIAL PROTECTION MEASURES

23. Under this section States parties are requested to provide relevant information, including the principal legislative, judicial, administrative or other measures in force; factors and difficulties encountered and progress achieved in implementing the relevant provisions of the Convention; and implementation priorities and specific goals for the future in respect of:

(a) Children in situations of emergency:

(i) Refugee children (art. 22);

(ii) Children in armed conflicts (art. 38), including physical and psychological recovery and social reintegration (art. 39);

(b) Children in conflict with the law:

(i) The administration of juvenile justice (art. 40);

(ii) Children deprived of their liberty, including any form of detention, imprisonment or placement in custodial settings (art. 37 (b), (c) and (d));

(iii) The sentencing of juveniles, in particular the prohibition of capital punishment and life imprisonment (art. 37 (a));

(iv) Physical and psychological recovery and social reintegration (art. 39);

(c) Children in situations of exploitation, including physical and psychological recovery and social reintegration (art. 39):

(i) Economic exploitation, including child labour (art. 32);

(ii) Drug abuse (art. 33);

(iii) Sexual exploitation and sexual abuse (art. 34);

(iv) Other forms of exploitation (art. 36);

(v) Sale, trafficking and abduction (art. 35);

(d) Children belonging to a minority or an indigenous group (art. 30).

24. Additionally, States parties are encouraged to provide specific statistical information and indicators relevant to the children covered by paragraph 23.

ANNEX IV

Provisional rules of procedure of the Committee*

PART ONE. GENERAL RULES

I. SESSIONS

Meetings of the Committee

Rule 1

The Committee on the Rights of the Child (hereinafter referred to as "the Committee") shall hold meetings as may be required for the effective performance of its functions in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child (hereinafter referred to as "the Convention").

Regular sessions

Rule 2

1. The Committee shall normally hold two regular sessions annually.

2. Regular sessions of the Committee shall be convened at dates decided by the Committee in consultation with the Secretary-General of the United Nations (hereinafter referred to as "the Secretary-General"), taking into account the calendar of conferences as approved by the General Assembly.

Special sessions

Rule 3

1. Special sessions of the Committee shall be convened by decision of the Committee. When the Committee is not in session, the Chairperson may convene special sessions of the Committee in consultation with the other officers of the Committee. The Chairperson of the Committee shall also convene special sessions:

(a) At the request of a majority of the members of the Committee;

(b) At the request of a State party to the Convention.

2. Special sessions shall be convened as soon as possible at a date fixed by the Chairperson, in consultation with the Secretary-General and with the other officers of the Committee, taking into account the calendar of conferences as approved by the General Assembly.

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* Adopted by the Committee at its 22nd meeting, on 15 October 1991.

Place of sessions

Rule 4

Sessions of the Committee shall normally be held at the Headquarters of the United Nations. Another place for a session may be designated by the Committee in consultation with the Secretary-General, taking into account the relevant rules of the United Nations on the subject.

Notification of opening date of sessions

Rule 5

The Secretary-General shall notify the members of the Committee of the date and place of the first meeting of each session. Such notification shall be sent, in the case of regular sessions, at least six weeks in advance, and in the case of a special session, at least three weeks in advance of the first meeting.

II. AGENDA

Provisional agenda for regular sessions

Rule 6

The provisional agenda for each regular session shall be prepared by the Secretary-General in consultation with the Chairperson of the Committee, in conformity with the relevant provisions of the Convention, and shall include:

(a) Any item decided upon by the Committee at a previous session;

(b) Any item proposed by the Chairperson of the Committee;

(c) Any item proposed by a member of the Committee;

(d) Any item proposed by a State party to the Convention;

(e) Any item proposed by the Secretary-General relating to his functions under the Convention or these rules.

Provisional agenda for special sessions

Rule 7

The provisional agenda for a special session of the Committee shall consist only of those items which were proposed for its consideration at the special session.

Adoption of the agenda

Rule 8

The first item on the provisional agenda for any session shall be the adoption of the agenda, except for the election of the officers when required under rule 16 of these rules.

Revision of the agenda

Rule 9

During a regular session, the Committee may revise the agenda and may, as appropriate, add, defer or delete items. Only urgent or important items may be added to the agenda.

Transmission of the provisional agenda and basic documents

Rule 10

The provisional agenda and basic documents relating to items appearing thereon shall be transmitted to the members of the Committee by the Secretary-General as early as possible, and whenever possible simultaneously with the notification of the opening of a session under rule 5.

III. MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

Members

Rule 11

Members of the Committee shall be the 10 independent experts elected in accordance with article 43 of the Convention.

Term of office

Rule 12

The members of the Committee shall be elected for a term of four years. They shall be eligible for re-election if renominated.

Beginning of term of office

Rule 13

The members of the Committee elected at the first election shall begin their term of office on 1 March 1991. In the case of members elected at subsequent elections, their term of office shall begin on the day following the date of expiry of the term of office of the members whom they replace.

Filling of casual vacancies

Rule 14

1. If a member of the Committee dies or resigns or declares that for any other cause he or she can no longer perform his or her Committee duties, the Chairperson of the Committee shall notify the Secretary-General who shall then declare the seat of that member to be vacant.

2. If, in the unanimous opinion of the other members, a member of the Committee has ceased to carry out his or her functions for any cause other than absence of a temporary nature, the Chairperson of the Committee shall notify the Secretary-General, who shall then declare the seat of that member to be vacant.

3. Pursuant to paragraphs 1 and 2 of this rule, the Secretary-General shall request the State party which had nominated that member to appoint another expert from among its nationals within two months to serve for the remainder of his or her predecessor's term.

4. The name and the curriculum vitae of the expert so appointed shall be transmitted by the Secretary-General to the Committee for approval by secret ballot. Upon approval of the expert by the Committee, the Secretary-General shall notify the States parties to the Convention of the name of the member of the Committee filling a casual vacancy.

5. Except in the case of a vacancy arising from a member's death or proven disability, the Secretary-General and the Committee shall act in accordance with the provisions of paragraphs 1, 3 and 4 of this rule only after receiving from the member concerned written notification of his or her decision to cease to function as a member of the Committee.

Solemn declaration

Rule 15

Upon assuming his or her duties, each member of the Committee shall make the following solemn declaration in open Committee:

> "I solemnly declare that I will perform my duties and exercise my powers as a member of the Committee on the Rights of the Child honourably, faithfully, impartially and conscientiously."

IV. OFFICERS

Elections

Rule 16

The Committee shall elect from among its members a Chairperson, three vice-chairpersons and a Rapporteur.

Term of office

Rule 17

The officers of the Committee shall be elected for a term of two years. They shall be eligible for re-election. None of them, however, may hold office if he or she ceases to be a member of the Committee.

Position of the Chairperson in relation to the Committee

Rule 18

The Chairperson shall perform the functions conferred upon him or her by the Convention and by these rules of procedure. In exercising his or her functions, the Chairperson shall remain under the authority of the Committee.

Acting Chairperson

Rule 19

If the Chairperson is unable to be present at a meeting or any part thereof, he or she shall designate one of the Vice-Chairpersons to act in his or her place. In the absence of such a designation, one of the vice-chairpersons will act as Chairperson in his or her place.

Powers and duties of the Acting Chairperson

Rule 20

A vice-chairperson acting as Chairperson shall have the same powers and duties as the Chairperson.

Replacement of officers

Rule 21

If any of the officers of the Committee ceases, or declares his or her inability, to continue serving as an officer of the Committee, a new officer shall be elected for the unexpired term of his or her predecessor.

V. SECRETARIAT

Duties of the Secretary-General

Rule 22

1. The secretariat of the Committee and of such subsidiary bodies as may be established by the Committee under rule 63 shall be provided by the Secretary-General.

2. The Secretary-General shall provide the Committee with the necessary staff and facilities for the effective performance of its functions under the Convention.

Statements

Rule 23

The Secretary-General or his representative shall be present at all sessions of the Committee. Subject to rule 39, the Secretary-General or his representative may make oral or written statements at meetings of the Committee or its subsidiary bodies.

Servicing of meetings

Rule 24

The Secretary-General shall be responsible for all the necessary arrangements for meetings of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies.

Keeping the members informed

Rule 25

The Secretary-General shall be responsible for keeping the members of the Committee informed of any questions which may be brought before it for consideration or of any other developments that may be of relevance to the Committee.

Financial implications of proposals

Rule 26

Before any proposal which involves expenditures is approved by the Committee or by its subsidiary bodies, the Secretary-General shall prepare and circulate to its members, as early as possible, an estimate of the cost involved in the proposal. It shall be the duty of the Chairperson to draw the attention of the members to this estimate and to invite discussion on it when the proposal is considered by the Committee or by a subsidiary body.

VI. LANGUAGES

Official and working languages

Rule 27

Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish shall be the official languages and English, French and Spanish the working languages of the Committee.

Interpretation from an official language

Rule 28

Statements made in any of the official languages shall be interpreted into the other official languages.

Interpretation from an unofficial language

Rule 29

Any person addressing the Committee and using a language other than one of the official languages shall provide for interpretation into and from one of the working languages. Interpretation into the other official languages by interpreters of the secretariat shall be based upon the interpretation given in the first working language.

Languages of records

Rule 30

Summary records of the meetings of the Committee shall be drawn up in the working languages and any of them may be issued in the other official languages upon decision of the Committee.

Languages of decisions and official documents

Rule 31

All decisions of the Committee shall be made available in the official languages. All official documents of the Committee shall be issued in the working languages and any of them may be issued in the other official languages upon decision of the Committee.

VII. PUBLIC AND PRIVATE MEETINGS

Public and private meetings

Rule 32

The meetings of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies shall be held in public, unless the Committee decides otherwise.

Issue of communiqués concerning private meetings

Rule 33

At the close of each private meeting, the Committee or its subsidiary bodies may issue a communiqué, through the Secretary-General, for the use of the information media and the general public.

Participation in meetings

Rule 34

1. In conformity with article 45, subparagraph (a), of the Convention, representatives of the specialized agencies, the United Nations Children's Fund and other United Nations organs shall be entitled to be represented at the consideration of the implementation of such provisions of the Convention as fall within the scope of their mandate. Representatives of the specialized

agencies, the United Nations Children's Fund and other United Nations organs may participate in private meetings of the Committee or its subsidiary bodies, when invited by the Committee to do so.

2. Representatives of other competent bodies concerned, which are not included among those in paragraph 1 of this rule, may participate in public or private meetings of the Committee or its subsidiary bodies, when invited by the Committee to do so.

VIII. RECORDS

Correction of summary records

Rule 35

Summary records of the public and private meetings of the Committee shall be prepared by the secretariat. They shall be distributed as soon as possible to the members of the Committee and to any other participants in the meetings. All such participants may, within three working days of the receipt of such records, submit corrections to the secretariat in the languages in which the records have been issued. Corrections to the records of the meetings shall be consolidated in a single corrigendum to be issued at the end of the session concerned. Any disagreement concerning such corrections shall be decided upon by the Chairperson of the Committee or, in the case of continued disagreement, by decision of the Committee.

Distribution of summary records

Rule 36

1. The summary records of public meetings shall be documents for general distribution.

2. The summary records of private meetings shall be distributed to the members of the Committee and to other participants in the meetings. They may be made available to others upon decision of the Committee at such time and under such conditions as the Committee may decide.

IX. DISTRIBUTION OF REPORTS AND OTHER OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE

Distribution of official documents

Rule 37

1. Without prejudice to the provisions of rule 36 and subject to paragraphs 2 and 3 of this rule, reports, decisions and all other official documents of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies shall be documents for general distribution, unless the Committee decides otherwise.

2. Reports and information furnished to the Committee by the specialized agencies, the United Nations Children's Fund, or other United Nations organs

and competent bodies pursuant to article 45, subparagraph (a), of the Convention and to rule 70 shall be distributed by the secretariat to all members of the Committee and, if so decided by the Committee, to members of its subsidiary bodies, States parties concerned and other participants at the meetings. Such reports and information shall normally be made available to the Committee in the language in which they have been submitted, unless otherwise decided by the Committee or the Chairperson.

3. Reports and additional information submitted by States parties pursuant to article 44 of the Convention and to rules 66 and 69 shall be documents for general distribution.

X. CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

Quorum

Rule 38

Six members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum.

Powers of the Chairperson

Rule 39

1. In addition to exercising the powers conferred upon the Chairperson by the Convention and elsewhere by these rules, the Chairperson shall declare the opening and closing of each meeting of the Committee, direct the discussion, ensure observance of these rules, accord the right to speak, put questions to the vote and announce decisions.

2. The Chairperson, subject to these rules, shall have control of the proceedings of the Committee and over the maintenance of order at its meetings.

3. In the course of the discussion of an item, the Chairperson may propose to the Committee a limitation on the time to be allowed to speakers and on the number of times each person may speak on any question, and the closure of the list of speakers.

4. The Chairperson shall rule on points of order.

5. The Chairperson may also propose adjournment or closure of the debate or adjournment or suspension of a meeting. Debate shall be confined to the question before the Committee, and the Chairperson may call a speaker to order if his or her remarks are not relevant to the subject under discussion.

Points of order

Rule 40

During the discussion of any matter, a member may, at any time, raise a point of order, and such point of order shall immediately be decided upon by the Chairperson in accordance with these rules of procedure. Any appeal

against the ruling of the Chairperson shall immediately be put to the vote, and the ruling of the Chairperson shall stand unless overruled by a majority of the members present. A member raising a point of order may not speak on the substance of the matter under discussion.

Time limitation

Rule 41

The Committee may limit the time allowed to each speaker on any question. When debate is limited and a speaker exceeds his or her allotted time, the Chairperson shall call him or her to order without delay.

List of speakers

Rule 42

During the course of a debate, the Chairperson may announce the list of speakers and, with the consent of the Committee, declare the list closed. The Chairperson may, however, accord the right of reply to any speaker if a speech delivered after he or she has declared the list closed makes this desirable. When the debate on an item is concluded because there are no other speakers, the Chairperson shall declare the debate closed. Such closure shall have the same effect as closure by consent of the Committee.

Suspension or adjournment of meetings

Rule 43

During the discussion of any matter, a member may move for the suspension or adjournment of the meeting. No discussion on such motions shall be permitted, and they shall immediately be put to the vote.

Adjournment of debate

Rule 44

During the discussion of any matter, a member may move for the adjournment of the debate on the item under discussion. In addition to the person who proposed the motion, one member may speak in favour and one against the motion, after which the motion shall immediately be put to the vote.

Closure of debate

Rule 45

A member may, at any time, move for the closure of the debate on the item under discussion, whether or not any other member or representative had signified his or her wish to speak. Permission to speak on the closure of the debate shall be accorded only to two members opposing the closure, after which the motion shall immediately be put to the vote.

Order of motions

Rule 46

Subject to rule 40, the following motions shall have precedence in the following order over all other proposals or motions before the meeting:

(a) To suspend the meeting;

(b) To adjourn the meeting;

(c) To adjourn the debate on the item under discussion;

(d) To close the debate on the item under discussion.

Submission of proposals

Rule 47

Unless otherwise decided by the Committee, substantive proposals, amendments and motions submitted by the members shall be introduced in writing and handed to the secretariat and their consideration shall, if so requested by any member, be deferred until the next meeting on a following day.

Decisions on competence

Rule 48

Subject to rule 46, any motion by a member calling for a decision on the competence of the Committee to adopt a proposal submitted to it shall immediately be put to the vote before a vote is taken on the proposal in question.

Withdrawal of motions

Rule 49

A motion may be withdrawn by the member who proposed it at any time before voting upon it has commenced, provided that the motion has not been amended. A motion thus withdrawn may be reintroduced by any member.

Reconsideration of proposals

Rule 50

When a proposal has been adopted or rejected, it may not be reconsidered at the same session unless the Committee, by a two-thirds majority of its members present, so decides. Permission to speak on a motion to reconsider shall be accorded only to two members in favour of and two members in opposition to the motion, after which it shall immediately be put to the vote.

XI. VOTING

Voting rights

Rule 51

Each member of the Committee shall have one vote.

Adoption of decisions

Rule 52 a/

Except as otherwise provided in the Convention and elsewhere in these rules, decisions of the Committee shall be made by a majority of the members present.

Equally divided votes

Rule 53

If a vote is equally divided on matters other than elections, the proposal shall be regarded as rejected.

Method of voting

Rule 54

Unless otherwise decided by the Committee, and subject to rules 14 and 60, the Committee shall vote by a show of hands. Any member may request a roll-call, which shall be taken in the English alphabetical order of the names of the members of the Committee, beginning with the member whose name is drawn by lot by the Chairperson.

Roll-call votes

Rule 55

The vote of each member participating in any roll-call shall be inserted in the record.

Conduct during voting and explanation of votes

Rule 56

After the voting has commenced, there shall be no interruption of the voting except on a point of order by a member in connection with the actual conduct of the voting. Brief statements by members consisting solely of explanations of their votes may be permitted by the Chairperson before the voting has commenced or after the voting has been completed.

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a/ The members of the Committee expressed the view that its method of work should normally allow for attempts to reach decisions by consensus before voting, provided that the Convention and the rules of procedure were observed.

Division of proposals

Rule 57

Parts of a proposal shall be voted upon separately if a member requests that the proposal be divided. Those parts of the proposal which have been approved shall then be put to the vote as a whole. If all of the operative parts of the proposal have been rejected, the proposal shall be considered to have been rejected as a whole.

Order of voting on amendments

Rule 58

1. When an amendment to a proposal is moved, the amendment shall be voted upon first. When two or more amendments to a proposal are moved, the Committee shall first vote on the amendment furthest removed in substance from the original proposal and then on the amendment next furthest removed therefrom and so on, until all amendments have been put to the vote. If one or more amendments are adopted, the amended proposal shall then be voted upon.

2. A motion is considered an amendment to a proposal if it merely adds to, deletes from or revises part of that proposal.

Order of voting on proposals

Rule 59

1. If two or more proposals relate to the same question, the Committee shall, unless it decides otherwise, vote upon the proposals in the order in which they have been submitted.

2. The Committee may, after each vote on a proposal, decide whether to vote upon the next proposal.

3. Any motions requiring that no decision be taken on the substance of such proposals shall, however, be considered as previous questions and shall be put to the vote before those proposals.

XII. ELECTIONS

Method of elections

Rule 60

Elections shall be held by secret ballot, unless the Committee decides otherwise in the case of elections to fill a place for which there is only one candidate.

Conduct of elections when only one elective place is to be filled

Rule 61

1. When only one person or member is to be elected and no candidate in the first ballot obtains the majority required, a second ballot shall be taken, which shall be restricted to the two candidates who obtained the greatest number of votes.

2. If the second ballot is inconclusive and a majority vote of members is required, a third ballot shall be taken in which votes may be cast for any eligible candidate. If the third ballot is inconclusive, the next ballot shall be restricted to the two candidates who obtained the greatest number of votes in the third ballot and so on, with unrestricted and restricted ballots alternating until a person or member is elected.

3. If the second ballot is inconclusive and a two-thirds majority is required, the balloting shall be continued until one candidate secures the necessary two-thirds majority. In the next three ballots, votes may be cast for any eligible candidates. If three such unrestricted ballots are inconclusive, the next three ballots shall be restricted to the two candidates who obtained the greatest number of votes in the third such unrestricted ballot. The following three ballots shall be unrestricted, and so on, until a person or member is elected.

Conduct of elections when two or more elective places are to be filled

Rule 62

When two or more elective places are to be filled at one time under the same conditions, those candidates obtaining the majority required in the first ballot shall be elected. If the number of candidates obtaining such majority is less than the number of persons or members to be elected, there shall be additional ballots to fill the remaining places. The voting then shall be restricted to the candidates obtaining the greatest number of votes in the previous ballot and to a number not more than twice the places remaining to be filled, provided that, after the third inconclusive ballot, votes may be cast for any eligible candidates. If three such unrestricted ballots are inconclusive, the next three ballots shall be restricted to the candidates who obtain the greatest number of votes in the third of the unrestricted ballots and to a number not more than twice the places remaining to be filled. The following three ballots shall be unrestricted, and so on, until all the places have been filled.

XIII. SUBSIDIARY BODIES

Establishment of subsidiary bodies

Rule 63

1. The Committee may, in accordance with the provisions of the Convention and subject to the provisions of rule 26 whenever applicable, set up such subcommittees and other ad hoc subsidiary bodies as it deems necessary and define their composition and mandates.

2. Each subsidiary body shall elect its own officers and may adopt its own rules of procedure. Failing the adoption of such rules, the present rules of procedure shall apply mutatis mutandis.

XIV. REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEE

Reports to the General Assembly

Rule 64

The Committee shall submit to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, every two years reports on its activities under the Convention and may submit such other reports as it considers appropriate.

Other reports

Rule 65

The Committee, or its subsidiary bodies, may issue for general distribution other reports on its activities. The Committee may also issue reports for general distribution in order to highlight specific problems in the field of the rights of the child.

PART TWO. FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMITTEE

XV. REPORTS AND INFORMATION UNDER ARTICLES 44 AND 45 OF THE CONVENTION

Submission of reports by States parties

Rule 66

1. States parties shall submit reports, through the Secretary-General, pursuant to article 44 of the Convention.

2. States parties shall submit such reports within two years after the entry into force of the Convention for the State party concerned and thereafter they shall submit subsequent reports every five years and such additional reports or information in the intervening period as the Committee may request.

3. The Committee, through the Secretary-General, shall indicate to the States parties the form and contents of reports or information to be supplied to the Committee, in accordance with paragraphs 1 and 2 of this rule.

Non-submission of reports

Rule 67

1. At each session, the Secretary-General shall notify the Committee of all cases of non-submission of reports or additional information under article 44 of the Convention and rule 66 of these rules. In such cases, the Committee shall transmit to the State party concerned, through the Secretary-General, a

reminder concerning the submission of such report or additional information and undertake any other efforts in a spirit of dialogue between the State concerned and the Committee.

2. If, even after the reminder and other efforts referred to in paragraph 1 of this rule, the State party does not submit the required report or additional information, the Committee shall consider the situation as it deems necessary and shall include a reference to this effect in its report to the General Assembly.

Attendance by States parties at the examination of reports

Rule 68

The Committee, through the Secretary-General, shall notify the States parties, as early as possible, of the opening date, duration and place of the session at which their respective reports will be examined. Representatives of the States parties shall be invited to attend the meetings of the Committee when their reports are examined. The Committee may also inform a State party from which it decides to seek additional information that the State party may authorize its representative to be present at a specified meeting; such representative should be able to answer questions which may be put to him or her by the Committee and make statements on reports already submitted by his or her State, and may also submit further information from his or her State.

Request for additional reports or information

Rule 69

If, in the opinion of the Committee, a report submitted by a State party pursuant to article 44 of the Convention does not contain sufficient information, the Committee may request that State to furnish an additional report or additional information, indicating the time-limit within which such additional report or information should be supplied.

Request for other reports or advice

Rule 70

1. The Committee may invite the specialized agencies, the United Nations Children's Fund and other United Nations organs, pursuant to article 45, subparagraph (a), of the Convention, to submit to it reports on the implementation of the Convention in areas falling within the scope of their activities.

2. The Committee may invite the specialized agencies, the United Nations Children's Fund and other competent bodies, as it may consider appropriate, to provide it with expert advice, pursuant to article 45, subparagraph (a), of the Convention, on the implementation of the Convention in areas falling within their respective mandates.

3. The Committee may indicate, as appropriate, the time-limit within which such reports or advice should be supplied to the Committee.

Suggestions and general recommendations on a State party's report

Rule 71

1. After its consideration of each report of a State party, together with such reports, information or advice, if any, received pursuant to article 44 and article 45, subparagraph (a), of the Convention, the Committee may make such suggestions and general recommendations on the implementation of the Convention by the reporting State as it may consider appropriate.

2. The Committee shall transmit, through the Secretary-General, suggestions and general recommendations it has decided upon to the State party concerned for its comments. The Committee may, where necessary, indicate the time-limit within which such comments from States parties are to be received.

3. The Committee shall include in its reports to the General Assembly suggestions and general recommendations together with comments, if any, received from States parties.

Other general recommendations

Rule 72

1. The Committee may make other general recommendations based on information received pursuant to articles 44 and 45 of the Convention.

2. The Committee shall include such other general recommendations in its reports to the General Assembly together with comments, if any, received from States parties.

General comments on the Convention

Rule 73

1. The Committee may prepare general comments based on the articles and provisions of the Convention with a view to promoting its further implementation and assisting States parties in fulfilling their reporting obligations.

2. The Committee shall include such general comments in its reports to the General Assembly.

Transmission of States parties' reports that contain a request or indicate a need for technical advice or assistance

Rule 74

1. The Committee shall transmit, as it may consider appropriate, to the specialized agencies, the United Nations Children's Fund and other competent bodies reports and information received from States parties that contain a request or indicate a need for technical advice or assistance.

2. The reports and information received from States parties in accordance with paragraph 1 of this rule shall be transmitted along with observations and suggestions, if any, of the Committee on these requests or indications.

3. The Committee may request, when it considers it appropriate to do so, information on the technical advice or assistance provided and the progress achieved.

XVI. GENERAL DISCUSSION

Rule 75

In order to enhance a deeper understanding of the content and implications of the Convention, the Committee may devote one or more meetings of its regular sessions to a general discussion on one specific article of the Convention or related subject.

XVII. REQUESTS FOR STUDIES

Studies

Rule 76

1. As provided in article 45, subparagraph (c), of the Convention, the Committee may recommend to the General Assembly to request the Secretary-General to undertake on its behalf studies on specific issues relating to the rights of the child.

2. The Committee may also invite the submission of studies from other bodies on topics of relevance to the Committee.

PART THREE. INTERPRETATION AND AMENDMENTS

XVIII. INTERPRETATION AND AMENDMENTS

Headings

Rule 77

For the purpose of the interpretation of these rules, the headings, which were inserted for reference purposes only, shall be disregarded.

Amendments

Rule 78

These rules of procedure may be amended by a decision of the Committee, without prejudice to the relevant provisions of the Convention.